

REMARKS

1. In response to the final Office Action mailed March 24, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 21-53 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, all claims were rejected. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 21, 23-26, and 39-40 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 21-53 will remain pending in this application. Of these thirty-three (33) claims, three (3) claims (claims 21, 26, and 41) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

3. Claims 21-25, 39 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 21-25, 39 and 40 have been amended to overcome these rejections. Based upon the above Amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a)

4. Independent claim 21 and dependent claims 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2003/0009564 A1 to Eckel (hereinafter, "Eckel") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2002/0053020 to Teijido, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Teijido"). Dependent claims 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eckel and Teijido, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,054,987 to Richardson (hereinafter, "Richardson"). Independent claims 26 and 41 and dependent claims 27-30, 32, 37-40, 42-45, 47, 52 and 53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,619 to Lim, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Lim") in view of Teijido. Dependent claims 31, 33-36, 44 and 48-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim and Teijido, in further view of Richardson. Based

upon the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

5. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner's reliance on Eckel is misplaced. In particular, claim 21 further recites, in part, "applying a display filter to resources of the service provider network not excluded by said security filter, said display filter specifying network resources for which the on-line service information is desired by the customer...." In the noted rejection of claim 21 the Examiner relied on paragraphs 10, 14 and 39 of Eckel in support of the assertion that Eckel teaches this feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

6. Eckel is directed to a portal accessible by a plurality of users over a network that is configurable to provide a user with relevant information gathered from disparate sources. (See, Eckel, para. 0010.) Eckel discloses that the information comprises data gathered from at least one data source and filtered in accordance with a user's selection of nodes. (See, Eckel, para. 0014.) Eckel recites that the disclosed system gives a user the ability to filter the content of the portal page to deliver the exact business content required. (See, Eckel, para. 0039.)

7. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Eckel does not disclose applying a filter to resources not excluded by a security filter. Rather, Eckel merely discloses applying a single filter and not applying a filter to resources not excluded by a different filter. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Eckel fails to teach or suggest "applying a display filter to resources of the service provide network not excluded by said security filter..., " as recited in independent claim 21. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection of claim 21 based on Eckel is improper and should be withdrawn.

8. In addition, Teijido fails to teach that which is missing from Eckel. Independent claim 21 recites in part "applying to said service provider network a security filter definable by a service provider and not the customer, said security filter corresponding to the customer and specifying the network resources of a partitioned network allocated to that customer...." In rejecting claim 21, the Examiner recognized that Eckel fails to disclose this feature of Applicant's claimed invention. The Examiner relies on Teijido for such a teaching, alleging that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the security filter of Teijido with the Eckel system because it will allow users to access only resources allocated to them by the system administrator. (See, Office Action, pg. 4.) Applicant respectfully disagrees.

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9. Teijido discloses an information assurance architecture with four zones of defenses providing three layers of protection. (*See*, Teijido, para. 028.) The third level of defense is referred to as access control and described as the ability of a Document Management System (DMS) and a Database Management System (DBMS) to use an access control list for adjudicating on a user level who has access to data objects stored within a database. (*See*, Teijido, para. 0035.) Teijido further discloses that the access control applied to each data object is also used by a web-publishing feature of the DMS to dynamically assemble and deliver different content to different users according to access rules defined in the DBMS. (*See*, Teijido, para. 0036.)

10. Teijido, however, does not disclose a partitioned network allocated to a customer. Instead, Teijido merely discloses an access control list for permitting access to data objects stored in a database. Moreover, the Examiner identified no specific disclosure in Teijido allegedly disclosing a partitioned network, nor has the Examiner identified any reason why the Examiner might believe that Teijido includes any such disclosure. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Teijido fails to teach or suggest a “security filter corresponding to the customer and specifying the network resources of a partitioned network allocated to that customer...,” as recited in claim 21. For at least this reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection of claim 21 based on the combination of Eckel and Teijido is improper and should be withdrawn.

11. With regard to independent claim 26, the Examiner further relied on Teijido for allegedly disclosing “storing, in a configuration database accessible by the service provider and not the customer, security filters each specifying network resources of a partitioned network allocated to a corresponding customer....” For at least reasons similar to those discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that contrary to the Examiner’s assertions, Teijido does not disclose a partitioned network allocated to a corresponding customer, nor “security filters each specifying network resources of a partitioned network....”

12. The Examiner further relied on Lim in rejecting claim 26. In particular, the Examiner alleged that Lim discloses “displaying a portal display of on-line service information generated from application of one of said plurality of modules to network resources resulting from application to the service provider network of a security filter corresponding to the customer and at least one of said display filters...” In support, the

Examiner relied on column 5 lines 1-32 and column 10 lines 24-59 of Lim. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

13. Lim is directed to a system for the management of communication services from a service provider by a customer of the provider. Lim discloses a Web Page Formatting API that is used to build a generic HTML page or portion of an HTML page. (*See*, Lim, col. 5 lines 25-29.) Lim further discloses that clicking a filtering field, a CGI program is started to retrieve the current filtering criteria CSM agent database via a User API and format them via the Web API. (*See*, Lim, col. 110 lines 51-59.)

14. However, like Eckel, Lim merely discloses filtering a single time, and as such, does not disclose applying two filters. Accordingly, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Lim fails to teach or suggest "... application to the service provider network of a security filter corresponding to the customer and at least one of said display filters....," as recited in Applicant's claim 26. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that claim 26 is allowable over the cited references for at least this additional reason.

15. The Examiner rejected independent claim 41 for reasons similar to those asserted in connection with the rejection of independent claim 26. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least reasons similar to those discussed above, independent claim 41 is likewise allowable over the art of record.

16. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully assert that the dependent claims are patentable over the art of record at least for the same reasons as those noted above.

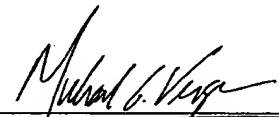
17. Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 21-53 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments of claims 21-53 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

18. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Conclusion

19. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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